

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Burlington Parallel Justice Commission's Subcommittee on Health Care that the system of care, both physical and emotional, for victims of sexual assault is not fully understood, and by all accounts fragmented; and

WHEREAS, it is further believed that this lack of knowledge and fragmentation has led to less follow-up care for victims of sexual assault than is recognized as the best practice and standard of care; and

WHEREAS, a Public Health Project Team from the University of Vermont's College of Medicine willingly accepted and embraced the challenge of preventing survivors of sexual assault from experiencing barriers in the health care system; and

WHEREAS, those members included Medhavi Bole, Whitney Hine, Kathleen Root, Jonathan Ellis, Job Larson, Joshua Price, and Darrell Nettlow; and

WHEREAS, this Team worked closely with the Health Care Subcommittee to analyze the barriers for victims of sexual assault receiving follow-up care; and

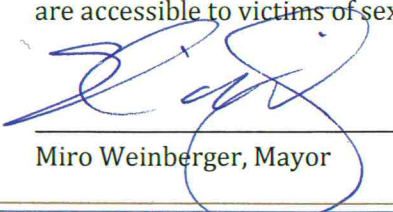
WHEREAS, this Team recommended training, policy changes, and a continuum of care for survivors of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, this Team has demonstrated exceptional commitment to this issue by contributing more to the project than was expected of them; and

WHEREAS, this Team courageously tackled an issue that is often minimized in order to provide the foundational research that has already positioned the Health Care Subcommittee to design and advocate for positive systemic changes to benefit victims of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the safety of Burlington and greater Chittenden County will be enhanced by their efforts; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Miro Weinberger, Mayor of the City of Burlington, do hereby commend the members of the Public Health Project Team for their service to the City of Burlington, to the Burlington Parallel Justice Commission, and to victims of sexual assault, and I urge the team members to strive to provide health care services that are accessible to victims of sexual assault throughout their medical careers.



Miro Weinberger, Mayor

